

of Baton Rouge, LA; Miss Megan Haverstock and Miss Lauren Haverstock; Miss Kathleen Warner of Lynn Haven, FL; Miss Ashley Bageant of Spotsylvania, VA; Miss Annie Ballard of Baton Rouge, LA; Miss Erin Douget of Opelousas, LA.

In closing, I would like to thank the Ms. Foundation—the founder and organizer of this outstanding program that has impacted in a very positive way the lives of millions of girls and has become a tradition for thousands of workplaces across the country.●

IN RECOGNITION OF 1976 BROWN UNIVERSITY IVY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Brown University's 1976 Ivy League Championship Football Team, which recently was inducted into the Brown University Athletic Hall of Fame. In particular, I want to salute Joe Wirth, an assistant coach of that team, who was inducted into the Brown Hall of Fame in his own right in 1995, and who was an important influence on my own collegiate athletic career.

Joe coached at Brown from 1973 to 1979, and during his tenure, the Brown University Bears compiled an impressive 42-18-1 record. Joe Wirth was a defensive genius, and it certainly showed out on the field—the Brown defense was nationally ranked in five of those seven seasons. In the 1976 championship year, when the Bears led the way with an 8-1 record, they allowed the second-fewest points in the Ivy League. And that stingy defense translated into victories over the traditional league powers: Princeton, Harvard, and Yale. It was the first time in the school's history that they beat all three in the same season.

As if his responsibilities to the football team were not enough, Joe also was the coach of the wrestling team during that time and he helped keep the program alive. He produced a New England Champion in 1976. As one of Joe's co-captains on the 1975-76 wrestling team, I can attest that he had the respect and admiration of all of his wrestlers. We were all so grateful for his leadership and for his encouragement.

Despite the time commitments associated with his football and wrestling teams, Joe remained a family man. With his wife, Carol, he raised a wonderful family of six children.

To this day, Joe Wirth is a popular figure in Brown athletic circles. His players still recall his admonition to never give up "until the last white line is crossed." In honor of his accomplishments as a Brown coach, I will conclude with a toast first offered to the 1976 Ivy League Champions by my classics professor, John Rowe Workman:

To your continued good health
To your continued prosperity
And to the maintenance of the great tradition●

NATIONAL PECAN MONTH

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National Pecan Month. Each April the nation celebrates the pecan. Used in recipes ranging from pies and candy to soups and salads, the pecan is an important part of New Mexico's diet and economy.

New Mexico is the third largest pecan producing State following Georgia and Texas. The Pecan tree is uniquely native to North America. Pecans were first introduced to New Mexico in the early 1900's at the New Mexico State University and then in the Mesilla Valley. In 1932, the late Dean Stahmann Sr. planted the first commercial Pecan orchard, and pecans quickly became an important product of our State. In 2001, the State of New Mexico produced over 50 million pounds of pecans and had approximately 30,000 acres of pecan trees.

I am proud of the 15 New Mexico counties which produce pecans. Seven of the leading counties in pecan production include Chavez, Dona Ana, Eddy, Lea, Luna, Otero, and Sierra. Dona Ana county has more than 20,000 acres of pecan trees. Eight others including Bernalillo, Curry, De Baca, Grant, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Quay, and Roosevelt are all growing as valuable pecan producing counties.

Pecans not only taste great, but also may provide a way to help American's live healthier lives. A recently released study printed in the Journal of Nutrition reported regular consumption of pecans lowers cholesterol in conjunction with a step I diet of the American Heart Association. I encourage all American's to celebrate National Pecan Month with the people of New Mexico.●

TRIBUTE TO 2002 TEACHER OF THE YEAR: CALIFORNIAN CHAUNCEY VEATCH

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Californian, Chauncey Veatch, whom I am very proud to know. Chauncey Veatch has been bestowed the highest honor available to teachers; he has been named the 2002 "Teacher of the Year."

I have had the honor of meeting Chauncey Veatch on two occasions. First when he became California's Teacher of the Year, and then again today. I could tell from my first meeting with Mr. Veatch that California was lucky to have a teacher like him in the State. His love for teaching and genuine concern for his students was apparent from the way he spoke about his classroom, students, and community.

Mr. Veatch did not always know he wanted to be a teacher. He came to teaching later in his career. He first spent 22 years in the Army infantry and medical services corps, working as a medical administrator.

After retiring in 1995, Mr. Veatch decided to follow in his siblings footsteps

and become a teacher. He currently teaches social studies at Coachella Valley High in Thermal, California. The overwhelming number of his students come from migrant families, and nearly all of his students are Spanish-speaking. Mr. Veatch speaks Spanish to communicate with many of his students and to show respect for their culture.

His students and colleagues know Mr. Veatch as a courteous, tireless worker. He goes the extra mile for his students and his community. It is not uncommon for Mr. Veatch to spend hours after school helping students get caught up on their course work or to get ahead. One of his migrant students had to work with his family until November. A place was saved for him in the classroom, and Mr. Veatch worked with him everyday after school to make sure he caught up with the rest of the class. This is just one example of the many students he has helped.

Mr. Veatch's former principal, Rick Alvarez, said of his colleague: "Believing our students can succeed is not a desire or a facade, but is actually something Chauncey lives. This caring can be seen in his eyes and heard in his voice and felt in his presence, and mostly seen in his actions."

Chauncey Veatch said in the Rose Garden yesterday as President Bush presented him with his award, "If you'd like to be a part of America's tomorrows become a teacher today." Mr. Veatch is a living example of the difference each person can make in the life of a child. Along side him at the ceremony were two of his students whose lives he has touched and undoubtedly changed. His students are his legacy, as he commonly refers to them as his "kids." Through his actions, it is apparent to me that the terms "kids" is not only used a word to describe his classroom, but really how he thinks of his students. They are like family.

From Army Colonel to "Teacher of the Year," I am proud to know you Chauncey Veatch and to call you a Californian. In Mr. Veatch's words, "There is nothing more rewarding, nothing more patriotic than teaching. It is truly a joy and honor to be a teacher. This award belongs to my students."●

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the Senate's attention an exceptional person—Chauncey Veatch, a teacher from Coachella Valley High School in Thermal, California.

He teaches world history, government and ninth-grade career preparation at Coachella Valley High School. He also does much more. He has taught English as a Second Language and citizenship classes in evening adult school. He revived the high school's cadet program, which has grown to 170 students. And he is often found with his students and their families outside of school in the community. Although he has only been teaching since 1995, after 22 years of service in the U.S. Army, Mr. Veatch